

Team: Legal Division

Discussion Topic: Review of needs assessment, and receipt of status update, from the Bethel School District and the Rochester School District, following the votes by their respective electorates to request supervisory union regrouping.

Statutory Authority: [16 V.S.A. § 261\(b\)](#); [SBE Rule 3200](#)

Background Information: At the State Board's April 13, 2010 meeting, representatives from the Windsor Northwest Supervisory Union spoke with the Board about governance options and supervisory union regrouping, following votes by the electorates of the Rochester and Bethel school districts requesting the Board to consider regrouping the districts which comprise the Windsor Northwest Supervisory Union. Such votes trigger a mandatory study by the State Board.

As a result of the April discussion, the supervisory union has prepared the requisite needs assessment for review and discussion with the State Board.

In the intervening time, the passage of Acts 146 and 153 of 2010 provide other alternatives for the Windsor Northwest Supervisory Union Board to consider.

The attached letter from interim superintendent of schools John Poljacik summarizes the contents of the needs assessment.

Purpose of Discussion:

- 1) Review needs assessment document;
- 2) Discuss State Board process and local district options; and
- 3) Determine next steps and set timetable.

Cost Implications: Staff resources will be necessary to review the two districts' needs assessments, to design and conduct an independent assessment (if needed), and to formulate a recommendation to the State Board.

Commissioner's Recommendation: Allow the districts time to conduct further discussions within the SU, and with districts of neighboring SUs, regarding SU regrouping and/or district consolidation options.

Staff Available: Mark Oettinger, General Counsel

WINDSOR NORTHWEST SUPERVISORY UNION

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Interim Superintendent of Schools

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Date: August, 2010

Dear Commissioner Vilaseca and Members of the State Board of Education,

The document you are about to review is a presentation of the status of the Windsor Northwest Consolidation initiative. You will find the following components:

- *This cover letter
- *Needs assessment based on the DOE requirement
- *Financial implications based on current and projected information and assumptions
- *Board meeting minutes – Rochester, Bethel, Windsor Northwest Supervisory Union
- *Community Discussion/consolidation scenarios
- *Current schools attended by students

As per the WNWSU meetings, it is the intent of the School Directors to conduct community discussions during the months of September and early October, collect the respective minutes from each meeting and review those minutes at local and SU meetings during October and early November. The School Directors respectfully request that they present the outcome summaries of the community meetings to the State Board of Education and Commissioner Vilaseca at the November or December regular monthly meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Poljacik, Interim Superintendent

Windsor Northwest Supervisory Union

Possible scenarios for Community Discussion

- A. No Change: WNWSU to focus on cost effectiveness and efficient supervisory union operation.
- B. Unified Union: Single district approach in regards to governance.
- C. Unified Destination: All six WNWSU town districts to merge with an existing supervisory union.
- D. Split Destinations: Each WNWSU town district or various combinations of districts to join with an existing supervisory union.
- E. Other: ??